

months later as his supporters. The Duke had been isolated from all the great lords before the Good Parliament. He took care not to be so again.

But there were some members of the late Council who were too honest or too implacable to be conciliated. One of these was the Earl of March. The Duke ordered him to cross the sea to Calais in pursuance of official duties. The Earl, fearing that treachery and assassination would be devised against him when on the high seas or shut up in the little station of Calais, refused to go. He preferred to resign his post as Marshal of England, which was handed over, as an earnest of further promotion, to the renegade Lord Percy.<sup>1</sup>

The Earl's Seneschal, Peter de la Mare, the hero of the Commons, was seized by those whom he had brought to justice, and flung into prison, without trial, at Nottingham Castle. It was even reported that the Duke would have taken his life, had not his new ally, Lord Percy, intervened.<sup>2</sup> Percy's influence was no doubt of a moderating character. He could not for very shame consent to butcher in the autumn the colleagues with whom he had worked in the summer. The shrewd Northerner knew well enough that his interest might soon require him to desert the cause of Lancaster, as he had deserted the cause of England, and he shrank from incurring unnecessary odium with the popular party whom he might once more wish to lead. It is not therefore surprising to find that, unblushing as was the violence used against the constitution and the expressed will of the Commons, no blood was shed during these months of reaction.

Another chronicler, less prejudiced against John of Gaunt, though generally less well informed, asserts that it was the Duke himself who saved De la Mare from the death meditated against him by Alice Perrers.<sup>3</sup> The flimsy nature of the securities against this woman's return had already become evident. She had not been sent out of the country, but she had sworn to keep away from Court. As soon as her friends returned to power, she resumed her place.

<sup>1</sup> *Chron. Ang.*, 108. \* *3Md.* 105,